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January
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White House preparing for trade crackdown

By ANDREW RESTUCCIA and DOUG PALMER, Politico • • Posted 2018-01-09 06:48:13

The first major trade action of 2018 is expected very soon, according to aides. Trump faces statutory deadlines to act by late January and early February in two cases involving solar products and washing machines under Section 201 of the 1974 Trade Expansion Act. The solar decision isn't expected this week but could come the week after, aides said. In the solar and washing machine cases, the U.S. International Trade Commission has already determined that increased imports are "a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry." That gives Trump the legal basis to impose temporary import restrictions to help the affected companies recover. [[read more ...](#)]

Rick Perry's Plan to Rescue Struggling Coal and Nuclear Plants Is Rejected

By BRAD PLUMER, New York Times • • Posted 2018-01-09 06:48:46

Federal regulators on Monday rejected a proposal by Energy Secretary Rick Perry to subsidize struggling coal and nuclear plants, in a major blow to the Trump administration's efforts to revive America's declining coal industry. Over the past decade, an influx of cheap natural gas and the rapid rise of renewable energy have transformed the nation's power sector, driving down wholesale electricity prices and pushing many older coal and nuclear plants into unprofitability and retirement. [[read more ...](#)]

FERC rejects DOE NOPR, kicking resilience issue to grid operators

Gavin Bade, Utility Dive • • Posted 2018-01-09 06:49:07

After months of hand-wringing for the power sector, Secretary Perry's coal and nuclear plan died Monday with a whimper, not a bang. In a brief order on Monday, FERC rejected the DOE's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR), which would have provided cost recovery for power plants that keep 90 days of fuel onsite. Instead, the Commission asked regional grid operators to review an extensive list of questions about improving power system resilience

and report back within 60 days. [[read more ...](#)]

Trump-appointed regulators reject plan to rescue coal and nuclear plants

By Steven Mufson, Washington Post • • Posted 2018-01-09 06:49:25

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Monday unanimously rejected a proposal by Energy Secretary Rick Perry that would have propped up nuclear and coal power plants struggling in competitive electricity markets. The independent five-member commission includes four people appointed by President Trump, three of them Republicans. Its decision is binding. [[read more ...](#)]

Huge wind farm could reduce Fort Collins electricity rates, triple wind power

By Jacy Marmaduke, The Coloradoan • • Posted 2018-01-09 06:50:07

Fort Collins' electricity provider is nearing the finish line for a wind power project that could save residents money and make almost half its delivered electricity renewable. Roundhouse Renewable Energy, a 150-megawatt wind farm, would triple Platte River Power Authority's wind capacity. For comparison's sake, 150 megawatts of capacity is about half that of Platte River electricity stalwart Rawhide Unit One — the Wellington-area coal plant set to retire before 2047. [[read more ...](#)]

EPA reassigns Clean Power Plan author

Arianna Skibell, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-01-09 06:50:26

A leading U.S. EPA Clean Air Act lawyer has been reassigned to work on "special projects," according to a notice sent to agency staff last week. Lorie Schmidt, EPA associate general counsel, had a significant role drafting former President Obama's signature climate regulation, the Clean Power Plan, which Administrator Scott Pruitt has initiated the process to repeal. [[read more ...](#)]

Why 2018 will be a make or break year for renewables

By Cassandra Sweet, GreenBiz • • Posted 2018-01-09 06:50:42

Wind and solar power are booming in the United States — and around the world — thanks to low prices, technology improvements, government policies that favor clean energy and energy security and growing demand from businesses, consumers and local governments. The increase in cheap renewables and natural gas power has led to a shift away from expensive coal and nuclear power. [[read more ...](#)]

Op-Ed: In Trump era, local governments must lead charge for clean energy

By John Heilman and Denise Simmons, The Hill • • Posted 2018-01-09 06:50:56

President Trump will soon be given another opportunity to advance his pro-fossil fuel agenda. Following a recent ruling by the U.S. International Trade Commission, Trump is now positioned to impose heavy tariffs on solar panels coming into the U.S. Should Trump move

forward with these tariffs, he'll throw up a roadblock to the country's fastest-growing source of clean energy and choke off nearly 88,000 American solar jobs. [[read more ...](#)]

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